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EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

Probable Revelations of Surratt.

The trial of John H. Surratt has developed a good deal of evidence which, subjected to the analysis of a competent jury, may warrant the supposition that his conviction as an accessory to the murder of Mr. Lincoln is not an improbable result of the legal investigation.

Whereas it appears from evidence in the Bureau of Military Justice, that the atrocious murder of the late President, Abraham Lincoln, and the attempted assassination of Hon. W. H. Seward, Secretary of State, were instigated, concerted, and procured by and between Jefferson Davis, late of Richmond, Va., and Jacob Thompson, Clements, or either Beverly Tucker, George N. Sanders, W. C. Cleary, and other Rebels and traitors against the Government of the United States...

Now, therefore, to the end that justice may be done, I, Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, do offer and promise for the arrest of said persons, or either of them, within the limits of the United States, so that they can be brought to trial, the following rewards:— One hundred thousand dollars for the arrest of Jefferson Davis...

Now, as it has been shown by the evidence that Surratt had repeatedly gone back and forth between Canada and Washington previous to the assassination, while many of the parties mentioned in this proclamation were resident in Canada, it is fair to presume that he is fully acquainted with whatever knowledge Jake Thompson, George N. Sanders, Beverly Tucker, Clement C. Clay, and William C. Cleary possessed of the plot to abduct or assassinate President Lincoln...

It is quite evident that, through the instrumentality of somebody, the plan of abduction, with a view to hold Mr. Lincoln as a hostage, was abandoned for the more terrible result of the plottings which culminated at Ford's theatre, and it is reasonable to suppose that Surratt is better acquainted with the circumstances than any other man who is now interested in making the revelation, and may, perhaps, assist in sounding the mystery to the very bottom.

It is fresh in the memory of every one that when the collapse of the Rebellion was almost inevitable, Jake Thompson, Sanders, and the other refugees in Canada got hold of Greeley, through the instrumentality of Colorado Jewett, and set on foot the memorable negotiations with Mr. Lincoln in which Greeley and Jewett attempted to lead him into an absurd compromise with Rebellion. It was immediately after these negotiations failed that the assassination of Lincoln appears to have been decided upon. It is presumed that Surratt can tell the whole story, and no doubt he can. It is suggested that he may supply the testimony as to the complexity of parties other than those who have already suffered, which was so positively announced to be in the possession of the Bureau of Military Justice, but which, singularly enough, was not produced upon the trial of the conspirators who have already expiated their crime.

A Summer Session of Congress. From the Independent. The hope so fondly cherished by many loyal citizens, that the President would do nothing to make a summer session of Congress necessary or even desirable, has been disappointed. For a time it really seemed to be his purpose to execute the Reconstruction law in good faith, or, at least, to throw no obstruction in the way of the military commanders at the South, who have all evinced an earnest intention to give full effect to the will of Congress.

Nullify its most important provisions. That scheme is now disclosed in the promulgation of an opinion, carefully framed by Attorney-General Stanbery, and intended to show that the military commanders are only a police force, with no power to remove or control the civil officers created by the operation of Andrew Johnson's own project of reconstruction.

We presume that, in view of the dangers which now menace the country, there will be a general and hearty concurrence of sentiment among all loyal men in favor of a meeting of Congress on the 3d of July. Each conservative Republican must, we should think, recognize the necessity for such a meeting.

Labor and Capital—Mr. Wade's "Jump Forward." From the Times. We imagined that the despatch published the other day, from Lawrence, did Senator Wade injustice. It seemed scarcely credible that any man occupying his position would arraign the inequality of wealth as a wrong to be remedied by legislation.

Now can Mr. Wade's declarations be confounded with demands growing out of the war, or the uses to which the war is put by extremist agitators. When Mr. Stevens insists upon confiscation, it is a result of the war and a punishment of its promoters. He proposes to make the property of Rebels pay for the Rebellion and for the reward of Southern loyalists, so-called, without in any manner touching the general rights of property.

Mr. Wade occupies altogether different ground. He does not speak of the Rebellion; he considers that disposed of. He does not dwell upon reconstruction and its penalties; these are, in his opinion, settled. He proclaims himself a radical of the breed that is always far ahead. The war has brought the country up to his standard in respect of slavery and the slaves. And, not content with being in advance on the subject of female suffrage, he proclaims that he is "now ready to take another jump forward, if necessary."

This time, Mr. Wade's "jump forward" is into chaos. He passes over the heads of Stevens and Phillips at single leap. He springs from the domain of American republicanism to the region of French socialism. He does not in specific terms endorse Proudhon and assert that "property is theft," but he assails the whole industrial and business fabric of the country, and sends forth propositions involving a general division of lands and goods, the limitation of capital, and the more ample recompense of labor—all by the acts of Congress.

The terrible distinction which exists between the laborer and the capitalist is not a discovery of which Mr. Wade can claim the credit. It is a fact which has long engaged the attention of thoughtful men, and sometimes of philanthropists by no means profound in thought. Visionaries have proposed to remove it by laws and combinations, and more often by revolution; but in vain. The fact remains and grows in its proportions. The folly of attempting to destroy it by legislation is, however, conceded even in quarters where the most insane forms of agrarianism and socialism are found favor. Instead of invading the sanctity of property, and so spurning the great incentive to thrift and persevering industry, the philosophy of to-day addresses itself to the power possessed by organized labor to advance from a condition of dependence and insufficient wages to one of comfort and independence.

The cooperative movement, however, is essentially a conservative movement. It recognizes the rights and sanctity of property, to begin with. It places no reliance upon acts of Parliament or Congress, or upon the threats and promises of demagogues. It aims at the elevation and enrichment of labor by a wise use of the strength and means which are at its command. It has no need of agitation or agitators. It disclaims dependence on politicians. And it works gradually, patiently, and without clamor, with a very proper contempt for the men who would pervert it to the purposes of a reckless partisanship.

The President of the Senate, with all his advanced radicalism, is a long way behind the cooperative workers in his political economy and his sagacity. Compared with their practical wisdom, his talk at Lawrence is as the empty declamation of a demagogue, who, consciously or unconsciously, is endeavoring to raise a spirit which will not lie down at his bidding. He calls for Congressional legislation that shall shorten the hours of labor and, at the same time, increase its pay. He declares that "a more equal distribution of capital must be wrought out," and that upon

Congress devolves the duty of doing it. He contends that the society which allows ease to some and hard labor to others is fundamentally unjust, and must be overthrown—by Congressional enactment. These are the tasks which Mr. Wade assigns to the body of which he is a conspicuous member.

We have too much confidence in their good sense to believe that they will witness this "jump forward" with any other feelings than those of astonishment and disgust. Nowhere in the world is property so universally diffused as in this country, and nowhere, therefore, will the protest against every scheme for violating its rights be uttered with such heartiness and effect. But Mr. Wade cannot be allowed to promulgate a policy which imperils the safeguards of society, and at the same time arrogate to himself authority as a radical Republican. The views we have reproduced from his Lawrence speech are the views, not of a radical Republican, but of a leveller and revolutionist. To these even the radicals of the North cannot be indifferent.

Diplomatic Mismanagement. From the Tribune. Mr. Seward's action in recalling Minister Campbell, who represents the Mexican interests of the United States in New Orleans, is, to use a homely proverb, like closing the stable-door after the horse has fled. It is now many months since Mr. Campbell was sent to the Juarez Government, and yet, during these months, he has not been within a week's journey of Juarez. We presume, or rather we are bound to presume, that when he was appointed and given an outfit, his instructions were to go to Mexico. His mission was ostensibly begun. He embarked on an American vessel. General Sherman accompanied him, and there were many protestations as to what our Government would do with France and Austria. For at least forty-eight hours we were threatened with a "vigorous" foreign policy. We remember that we feared, at the time, that it was nothing more than show—an attempt to make capital abroad for what had been lost at home.

We have lost sadly by the absence of a Minister from the seat of the Juarez Government. We have never had such an opportunity to make our influence felt in the councils of the Republic as we have had, and not assimilated itself with the conquering party, simply because assimilation was forbidden by statutes, many and ingenious; and when a race so oppressed plays now and then fantastic tricks, men wonder if Ireland will ever be quiet, and they make little jokes about Donnybrook Fair. We do not know how much hope of peace will be kindled, but to see over the contentions of a living man, to make his bitter memories, and to kill him because, like Charles II, he is "such an unconquerable time in dying," is at least unchristian. "There is anguish in Dublin," says M. Victor Hugo. Alas! when was there ever anything else there?

It may be said it is difficult to decide what shall be done with an unreasonable and restless people. We know that it is; but we happen also to know that this is a difficulty of the man's own creation. There is the history; and foreign children know it by heart. The modern Englishman may not be responsible for the sins of his fathers; but in dealing with Ireland he has no right to ignore them; while he shares the plunder, with what justice would he be fiercely Draconian in judging those whose ancestors were robbed? The letter of the law says hang, behead, and disembowel; but the spirit of the age says, "Pity and forgive!" There may be no executions; but why should there not be a moderate and carefully guarded amnesty? Let modern Britons expiate the crimes of the Tudors by the exercise of a little charity, however distasteful.

The Gibbet in Government. From the Tribune. The most shameful pages in history are those which record the execution of rebels against political governments. Ecclesiastical cruelties are not less revolting, but they have at least the miserable excuse of a diseased conscience, to which St. Paul alluded in his speech to Agrippa: "I verily thought with myself that I ought to do many things; many of the saints did I shut up in prison; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them." Despotism governments, taking no pains to be right, but avowedly disclaiming that men come saddled and bridled into the world for kings to ride. They accept the Satanic aspiration, "Evil, be thou my good!"

and all who decline to be plundered or to be tortured, or to be enslaved, and who strike for freedom and for justice, are, as a matter of course, to be crushed like beetles, that the terror of their death may extinguish manhood and make creeping and cringing subjects of all survivors. This was royal philosophy in the days of the Roman Emperors, and the question for this age to answer is whether a enlightened government can afford to act upon a similar policy. It was presented to us just now in the discussions concerning the fate of the Fenian prisoners; and it elicited wise and benevolent remonstrance from men like Mr. Stuart Mill and M. Victor Hugo. It is mainly a question of the time of day. Fifty years ago, in a like case, when an intellectual emuch like Castlereagh could "dabble his sleek white hands in Ireland's gore," there would have been no doubt and no dissimulation. Irish peasants would have been the sport of an insatiable soldiery, and Irish priests have been hung by law military, or without any law, in the barracks. We insist, in dealing with what is called justice to the discomfited Fenians, that this former page of Ireland's history shall not be forgotten.

The extenuating circumstances, we know, are very old, but then they were very terrible to begin with, and in no other country does tradition so linger and so exult. It is foolish to say that the cruelties of the English Government, since, and partly by the French revolution, were indefensible. A generous man, even now, cannot read of them without fire in his heart and water in his eyes. It is not that the old Irish rebellion was put down, for that was a simple matter of course; it is the coarse, rude, bloody way in which it was put down by murder, by rape, by arson, by farcical and summary trials and executions speedily following—it is the cruelty practised by majors and by captains, and by justices of the peace, in their dark and sanguinary days, which rankles at this hour in the heart of Ireland, and which, in common equity, it is impossible to forget. After all, it was only yesterday; for what is half a century in the history of a nation? We insist that in judging the Ireland of the present, the Ireland of the past shall not be forgotten. Fenianism may be foolish—we do not say that it is wise—but the craze is not of to-day, and began under extemporized scaffolds and by the light of burning villages. It has been nursed by the gnawing of hunger; it has been stimulated by ecclesiastical insult; it is the legitimate result of bad management, executed by worse men, and of blunders and villainies stretching from the days of Elizabeth to the days of Victoria. What a record! In judging Ireland, in common charity, let it be always kept in mind. The poor country has its history, and it has had its people; and if a feeble remnant of the finest peasantry in the world sometimes does things which seem to us unwise, we will not be bullied into forgetting the savage policy which has driven the race almost to extinction. This policy is a matter of history. Nobody dares to defend it now; but it did not lack defenders even in the days of Dean Swift, or even in his rough and cynical heart, and ventured to say that smaller men would have been hung for saying. Nobody is fitted to judge the case who is not familiar with Irish history, and nobody who is not so familiar can wonder at anything which happens in Ireland. The penal code which the English Church applied to its Irish sister, the very invention and handiwork of the devil, would not be believed in by historical students if it were a little older, and if fragments of it did not to this day exist. Here is a people purposely kept ignorant and in poverty, kept poor, and not assimilating itself with the conquering party, simply because assimilation was forbidden by statutes, many and ingenious; and when a race so oppressed plays now and then fantastic tricks, men wonder if Ireland will ever be quiet, and they make little jokes about Donnybrook Fair.

REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION. HARRISBURG, April 16, 1867.—The Republican State Convention of the "Great State" of Pennsylvania, in Harrisburg, on WEDNESDAY, the 25th day of June next, at 10 o'clock, A. M., to nominate a candidate for Judge of the Supreme Court, and to initiate proper measures for the ensuing State canvass.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HIGHWAYS—OFFICE, No. 104 S. FIFTH STREET, Philadelphia, June 12, 1867. NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS. Sealed Proposals will be received at the Office of the Chief Commissioner of Highways until 12 o'clock M., on MONDAY, 25th inst., for the construction of a sewer on the line of Walnut street, to commence at and intersect the sewer now laid in said Walnut street, at the intersection of Chestnut street, and extend eastward to Nineteenth street, thence along Nineteenth street to Locust street, with such inlets and manholes as may be directed by the Chief Engineer and Surveyor.

STOCKHOLDERS MEETING.—THE FARMERS' AND MECHANICS' NATIONAL BANK. PHILADELPHIA, May 23, 1867. A General Meeting of the Stockholders of the Farmers' and Mechanics' National Bank of Philadelphia will be held at the BANKING HOUSE, on SATURDAY, the 25th day of June next, at twelve o'clock, noon, for the purpose of taking into consideration and deciding upon amendments of the Third and Fifth of the Articles of Association of the said Bank.

OFFICE OF THE PHILADELPHIA GAS WORKS. Proposals will be received at this office, No. 20 S. SEVENTH Street, until noon of the 1st day of July, for the construction of the Philadelphia Gas Works of the Stock in the Germantown, Richmond, Manayunk, and Southwark and Moyamensing Gas Companies, to be known as the Philadelphia Gas and Fueling Fuel of said Companies.

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SPECIAL NOTICES. REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION. HARRISBURG, April 16, 1867.—The Republican State Convention of the "Great State" of Pennsylvania, in Harrisburg, on WEDNESDAY, the 25th day of June next, at 10 o'clock, A. M., to nominate a candidate for Judge of the Supreme Court, and to initiate proper measures for the ensuing State canvass.

REMOVED. AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS' PREPARATION, MR. C. BIRD HAS OPENED HIS NEW AND SPACIOUS ESTABLISHMENT FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT OF HIS FRIENDS, AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL, AT NOS. 613 AND 617 ARCH STREET.

WOMAN'S WORK IN THE CIVIL WAR.—No other work can compare with this in the extent and completeness of its sketches, or the accuracy of its statistics, or the sanction and approval of the Sanitary and Christian Commissions, and is, therefore, the standard work on the subject.

LECTURES.—A NEW COURSE OF LECTURES is being delivered at the NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, embracing the subjects:—How to Live and what to Live For.—Youth, Maturity, and Old Age.—Marriage generally reviewed.—The Causes of Indigestion, Flatulence, and Nervous Diseases accounted for.—Marriage philosophically considered, &c.

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